

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Canceled

2. Canceled

3. Canceled

4. Canceled

5. (Currently Amended) A combination of a thermoplastic resin composition with a lubricating oil comprising:

(a) a lubricating oil in contact with

(b) a thermoplastic resin composition,

wherein the thermoplastic resin composition comprises:

a fluororesin in an amount ranging from 5 to 40 parts by weight, the fluororesin including a crosslink formed between at least a part of the carbon atoms that form part of a molecule chain of the fluororesin and at least a part of the carbon atoms that form part of another molecular chain of the fluororesin, and an active end group that forms at least a part of the molecule chain of the fluororesin; and

a thermoplastic resin other than a fluororesin, in an amount ranging from 95 to 60 parts by weight,

wherein at least a part of an active end group of the fluororesin is chemically bonded with a part of the thermoplastic resin; and

wherein the thermoplastic resin composition has a surface energy ranging from a first value of [a surface energy of the lubricating oil + 0] N/cm to a second value of [the surface energy of the lubricating oil + 20 x 10⁵] N/cm.

6. (Currently Amended) A resinous material comprising:

a thermoplastic resin composition including

a fluororessin in an amount ranging from 5 to 40 parts by weight, the fluororessin including a crosslink formed between at least a part of the carbon atoms that form part of a molecule chain of the fluororessin and at least a part of the carbon atoms that form part of another molecular chain of the fluororessin, and active end groups that form at least a part of the molecule chain of the fluororessin, and

a thermoplastic resin other than a fluororessin, in an amount ranging from 95 to 60 parts by weight;

wherein at least a part of [[the]] an active end group groups of the fluororessin is chemically bonded with a an atom forming part of the thermoplastic resin by kneading both the thermoplastic resin and fluororessin upon heating both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororessin to a temperature close to melting points of the thermoplastic resin and the fluororessin and upon applying a vacuum-suction to both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororessin.

7. (Withdrawn) A sliding member comprising:

a thermoplastic resin composition including

a fluororessin in an amount ranging from 5 to 40 parts by weight, the fluororessin including crosslink formed between at least a part of carbon atoms forming part of a molecule chain of the fluororessin and at least a part of carbon atoms forming part another molecular chain of the fluororessin, and active end group formed at least a part of the molecule chain of the fluororessin, and

a thermoplastic resin other than the fluororessin, in an amount ranging from 95 to 60 parts by weight.

8. (Withdrawn) A sliding member formed of a resinous material, the resinous material comprising:

a thermoplastic resin composition including

a fluororessin in an amount ranging from 5 to 40 parts by weight, the fluororessin including crosslink formed between at least a part of carbon atoms forming part of a molecule chain of the fluororessin and at least a part of carbon atoms forming part another molecular chain of the fluororessin, and active end groups formed at least a part of the molecule chain of the fluororessin, and

a thermoplastic resin other than the fluororesin, in an amount ranging from 95 to 60 parts by weight,

wherein at least a part of the active end groups of the fluororesin is chemically bonded with atom forming part of the thermoplastic resin by kneading both the thermoplastic resin and fluororesin upon heating both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin to a temperature close to melting points of the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin and upon applying a vacuum-suction to both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin.

9. (Withdrawn) A chain system for an internal combustion engine, comprising a shoe of one of at least one of a chain guide and a chain tensioner, the shoe being formed of a resinous material, the resinous material including a fluororesin in an amount ranging from 5 to 40 parts by weight, the fluororesin including crosslink formed between at least a part of carbon atoms forming part of a molecule chain of the fluororesin and at least a part of carbon atoms forming part another molecular chain of the fluororesin, and active end group formed at least a part of the molecule chain of the fluororesin, and a thermoplastic resin other than the fluororesin, in an amount ranging from 95 to 60 parts by weight,

a metal chain in sliding contact with the shoe, the metal chain having a surface roughness (Rz) of not larger than 5 μm .

10. (Withdrawn) A seal ring used in a motor vehicle, formed of a resinous material, the resinous material comprising a thermoplastic resin composition, the thermoplastic resin composition including:

a fluororesin in an amount ranging from 5 to 40 parts by weight, the fluororesin including crosslink formed between at least a part of carbon atoms forming part of a molecule chain of the fluororesin and at least a part of carbon atoms forming part another molecular chain of the fluororesin, and active end group formed at least a part of the molecule chain of the fluororesin; and

a thermoplastic resin other than the fluororesin, in an amount ranging from 95 to 60 parts by weight, the thermoplastic resin being at least one selected from the group consisting of polyamideimide resin, polyetherimide resin, and polyetherether ketone resin.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a resinous material containing a fluororesin and a thermoplastic resin other than the fluororesin, comprising:

irradiating an ionizing radiation in a dosage ranging from 1 kGy to 10 MGy onto the fluororesin in a condition in which the fluororesin is heated at a temperature of not lower than a melting point of the fluororesin in an inert gas atmosphere having an oxygen concentration of not higher than 1.33 kPa; and

introducing the fluororesin irradiated with the ionizing radiation into an extruder to knead both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin upon heating both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin to a temperature close to melting points of the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin and upon applying a vacuum-suction to both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin.

12. (Previously Presented) The combination as claimed in claim 5 wherein the thermoplastic resin composition forms a resinous material whose surface is in contact with the lubricating oil such that the resinous material is lubricated with the lubricating oil.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ resinous material as claimed in claim 6 consisting essentially of ~~comprising~~

20 parts per weight of a fluororesin, the fluororesin including a crosslink formed between at least a part of a molecule chain of the fluororesin and at least a part of another molecular chain of the fluororesin, and active end groups that form at least a part of the molecule chain of the fluororesin, and

80 parts per weight of polyamide 66 ~~resin~~ resin,

wherein at least a part of an active end group of the fluororesin is chemically bonded with a part of the thermoplastic resin by kneading both the thermoplastic resin and fluororesin upon heating both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin to a temperature close to melting points of the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin and upon applying a vacuum-suction to both the thermoplastic resin and the fluororesin.

14. (Previously Presented) The resinous material as claimed in claim 6 comprising 20 parts per weight of the fluororesin and 80 parts per weight of polyamideimide resin.

15. (New) The combination as claimed in claim 12, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition forms a resinous material which substantially contains no lubricating oil therein and has a surface in contact with the lubricating oil such that only the surface of the resinous material is lubricated with the lubricating oil.

16. (New) The combination as claimed in claim 5 prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

kneading the fluororesin and the thermoplastic resin using an extruder to form the thermoplastic resin composition;

heating the fluororesin and the thermoplastic resin during kneading to a temperature close to the melting points of the fluororesin and the thermoplastic resin; and

applying a vacuum-suction to the extruder during kneading.

17. (New) The combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fluororesin is chemically bonded to the thermoplastic resin.

18. (New) The combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the combination exhibits a wear depth of approximately less than 20 µm when sliding at a speed of 7 m/s in contact with a steel disc for 6 hours.

19. (New) The combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the combination exhibits a friction coefficient of less than 0.06 when sliding at a speed of 7 m/s in contact with a steel disc for 6 hours.

20. (New) The resinous material as claimed in claim 6 prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

kneading the fluororesin and the thermoplastic resin using an extruder to form the thermoplastic resin composition;

heating the fluororesin and the thermoplastic resin during kneading to a temperature close to the melting points of the fluororesin and the thermoplastic resin; and

applying a vacuum-suction to the extruder during kneading.

21. (New) A seal ring used in a motor vehicle formed of the resinous material as claimed in claim 6.